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application US Ser. No. 09/343759, filed June 30, 1999, entitled "Continuous Method of Providing Individual Sheets from a Continuous Web" (Attorney Docket, PPC-668). The covered web was then compressed in a tampon press, as generally described in Friese et al., US Ser. No. 07/596,454, filed October 12, 1990, and EP-B-0 422 660. The resulting tampons had a weight of between 2.55 and 3.2 g. During processing of this film, it was noted that the cover was heat-sealable without blocking the apertures and without melting them through, and that the heat-sealable apertured film did not adhere to the aperturing drum.

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 7-9, 17-18, 29, 35, 42, 47, 52 and 55 to read as follows:

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1. (Amended) A wrapping element useful in absorbent articles, the wrapping element comprising fluid-impervious plastic material in the form of a resilient three-dimensional web exhibiting a fiber-like appearance and tactile impression, the fluid-impervious plastic material comprises a laminate having at least three layers:

a) a first outer layer comprising a blend of at least two thermoplastic polymeric components, a continuous phase of a first thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a first melting point temperature and a dispersed phase of an immiscible, second thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a second melting point temperature, less than the first melting point temperature, such that when the web is heated to a temperature between the first melting point temperature and the second melting point

temperature, the second thermoplastic polymeric component is capable of forming an adhesive bond;

b) a second outer layer, opposite the first outer layer; and

c) at least one intermediate layer, disposed between the first and second outer layers,

wherein the web has first and second surfaces, the first surface defining a plane having a multiplicity of apertures therein and being defined at least in part by one of the first and second layers, each of the apertures being defined by a multiplicity of intersecting fiber-like elements interconnected to one another substantially in the plane of the first surface, the web as defined by each of the fiber-like elements exhibiting a cross-section comprising a base portion in the plane of the first surface and a sidewall portion joined to the base portion, the sidewall portions extending generally in the direction of the second surface of the web, the sidewall portions being interconnected to one another intermediate the first and the second surfaces of the web to form interconnected sidewall portions terminating substantially concurrently with one another in a plane defined by the second surface.

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7. (Amended) The wrapping element of claim 1 wherein the first layer comprises about 45 to about 95 wt-% of the first thermoplastic polymeric component and about 55 to about 5 wt-% of the second thermoplastic polymeric component.

8. (Amended) The wrapping element of claim 7 wherein the first layer comprises about 60 to about 80 wt-% of the first thermoplastic polymeric component and about 40 to

A6 about 20 wt-% of the second thermoplastic polymeric component.

9. (Amended) The wrapping element of claim 1 wherein the first layer further comprises one or more components selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, UV absorbers, lubricants, antiblock agents, slip agents, plasticizers, nucleating agents, antistatic agents, flame retardants, pigments, dyes, and fillers.

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17. (Amended) The wrapping element of claim 11 wherein the second layer comprises about 45 to about 95 wt-% of the first thermoplastic polymeric component and about 55 to about 5 wt-% of the second thermoplastic polymeric component.

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18. (Amended) The wrapping element of claim 17 wherein the second layer comprises about 60 to about 80 wt-% of the first thermoplastic polymeric component and about 40 to about 20 wt-% of the second thermoplastic polymeric component.

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23. (Amended) The wrapping element of claim 1 wherein the intermediate layer further comprises one or more components selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, UV absorbers, lubricants, antiblock agents, slip agents, plasticizers, nucleating agents, antistatic agents, flame retardants, pigments, dyes, and fillers.

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28. (Amended) A tampon comprising an absorbent structure substantially enclosed by a cover wherein (1) the

cover comprises fluid-impervious plastic material in the form of a resilient three-dimensional web exhibiting a fiber-like appearance and tactile impression, (2) the fluid-impervious plastic material comprises a laminate having at least three layers:

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a first outer layer comprising a blend of at least two thermoplastic polymeric components, a continuous phase of a first thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a first melting point temperature and a dispersed phase of an immiscible, second thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a second melting point temperature, less than the first melting point temperature, such that when the web is heated to a temperature between the first melting point temperature and the second melting point temperature, the second thermoplastic polymeric component is capable of forming an adhesive bond;

a second outer layer, opposite the first outer layer; and

at least one intermediate layer, disposed between the first and second outer layers; and

(3) the web has first and second surfaces, the first surface defining a plane having a multiplicity of apertures therein and being defined at least in part by one of the first and second layers, each of the apertures being defined by a multiplicity of intersecting fiber-like elements interconnected to one another substantially in the plane of the first surface, the web as defined by each of the fiber-like elements exhibiting a cross-section comprising a base portion in the plane of the first surface and a sidewall portion joined to each edge of the base portion, the sidewall portions extending generally in the

A10 direction of the second surface of the web, the sidewall portions being interconnected to one another intermediate the first and the second surfaces of the web to form interconnected sidewall portions terminating substantially concurrently with one another in a plane defined by the second surface.

A11 7³⁵. (Amended) The tampon of claim ~~28~~¹ wherein the first layer comprises about 45 to about 95 wt-% of the first thermoplastic polymeric component and about 55 to about 5 wt-% of the second thermoplastic polymeric component.

A12 14⁴². (Amended) The tampon of claim ~~36~~⁸ wherein the second layer comprises about 45 to about 95 wt-% of the first thermoplastic polymeric component and about 55 to about 5 wt-% of the second thermoplastic polymeric component.

A13 19⁴⁷. (Amended) The tampon of claim ~~29~~¹ wherein the intermediate layer further comprises one or more components selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, UV absorbers, lubricants, antiblock agents, slip agents, plasticizers, nucleating agents, antistatic agents, flame retardants, pigments, dyes, and fillers.

A14 52. (Amended) A method of forming a wrapping element useful in absorbent articles, comprising the steps of:
forming a laminate having at least three layers having a first outer layer comprising a blend of at least two thermoplastic polymeric components, a continuous phase of a first thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a first melting

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point temperature and a dispersed phase of an immiscible, second thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a second melting point temperature, less than the first melting point temperature, such that when the web is heated to a temperature between the first melting point temperature and the second melting point temperature, the second thermoplastic polymeric component is capable of forming an adhesive bond; a second outer layer, opposite the first outer layer; and at least one intermediate layer, disposed between the first and second outer layers; applying fluid at a temperature greater than ambient temperature to the laminate while it is supported on a three-dimensional surface to form a resilient three-dimensional web exhibiting a fiber-like appearance and tactile impression, wherein the web has first and second surfaces, the first surface defining a plane having a multiplicity of apertures therein and being defined at least in part by one of the first and second layers, each of the apertures being defined by a multiplicity of intersecting fiber-like elements interconnected to one another substantially in the plane of the first surface, the web as defined by each of the fiber-like elements exhibiting a cross-section comprising a base portion in the plane of the first surface and a sidewall portion joined [to each edge of] the base portion, the sidewall portions extending generally in the direction of the second surface of the web, the sidewall portions being interconnected to one another intermediate the first and the second

A14 surfaces of the web to form interconnected sidewall portions terminating substantially concurrently with one another in a plane defined by the second surface; and

separating the web into individual pieces of material of a size appropriate for a wrapping element.

A15 24/55. (Amended) A method of making a tampon comprising the steps of:

separating a cover from a supply of a resilient three-dimensional web exhibiting a fiber-like appearance and tactile impression,

the web comprising fluid-impervious plastic material which comprises a laminate having at least three layers:

a first outer layer comprising a blend of at least two thermoplastic polymeric components, a continuous phase of a first thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a first melting point temperature and a dispersed phase of an immiscible, second thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a second melting point temperature, less than the first melting point temperature, such that when the web is heated to a temperature between the first melting point temperature and the second melting point temperature, the second thermoplastic polymeric component is capable of forming an adhesive bond;

a second outer layer, opposite the first outer layer, comprising a blend of at least

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two thermoplastic polymeric components, a continuous phase of a first thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a first melting point temperature and a dispersed phase of an immiscible, second thermoplastic polymeric component that exhibits a second melting point temperature, less than the first melting point temperature, such that when the web is heated to a temperature between the first melting point temperature and the second melting point temperature, the second thermoplastic polymeric component is capable of forming an adhesive bond; and at least one intermediate layer, disposed between the first and second outer layers; and

the web has first and second surfaces, the first surface defining a plane having a multiplicity of apertures therein and being defined at least in part by one of the first and second layers, each of the apertures being defined by a multiplicity of intersecting fiber-like elements interconnected to one another substantially in the plane of the first surface, the web as defined by each of the fiber-like elements exhibiting a cross-section comprising a base portion in the plane of the first surface and a sidewall portion joined the base portion, the sidewall portions extending generally in the direction of the second surface of the web, the sidewall portions being interconnected to one another intermediate the first and the second

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